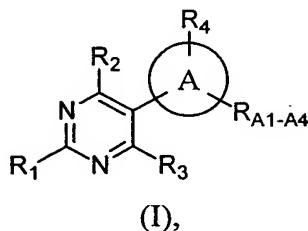


What is claimed is:

1. A compound according to formula (I),



or a therapeutically suitable salt or prodrug thereof, wherein

R_1 is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, arylalkyl, cyano, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, and $-NR_AR_B$;

R_A and R_B are each independently a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, and formyl;

R_2 is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cyano, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, $-NR_CR_D$, and $(NR_CR_D)alkyl$;

R_C and R_D are each independently a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkenyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, formyl, and hydroxyalkyl;

R_3 is a member selected from the group consisting of alkenyl, alkenylalkoxyalkyl, alkenyloxy, alkenyloxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfinylalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonylalkyl, alkylthio, alkylthioalkyl, alkynyl, alkynylalkoxyalkyl, alkynyloxy, alkynyloxyalkyl, aryl, arylalkoxy, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl, arylalkylthio, arylalkylthioalkyl, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, arylthio, arylthioalkyl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkoxy, cycloalkenylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkylthio, cycloalkenylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkenyloxy, cycloalkenyloxyalkyl, cycloalkenylthio,

cycloalkenylthioalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, cycloalkylalkoxyalkyl,
 30 cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkylthio, cycloalkylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkyloxy,
 cycloalkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylthio, cycloalkylthioalkyl, formyl, haloalkoxy, halogen,
 heteroaryl, heteroarylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxyalkyl, heteroarylalkyl,
 heteroarylalkylthio, heteroarylalkylthioalkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaryloxyalkyl,
 heteroarylthio, heteroarylthioalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkoxy,
 35 heterocyclealkoxyalkyl, heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclealkylthio,
 heterocyclealkylthioalkyl, heterocycleoxy, heterocycleoxyalkyl, heterocyclethio,
 heterocyclethioalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, $-NR_E R_H$, $(NR_E R_H)alkyl$,
 $(NR_E R_F)carbonylalkenyl$ $(NR_E R_F)carbonylalkyl$, $(NR_E R_F)sulfonyl$, and
 $(NR_E R_F)sulfonylalkyl$;

40 R_E and R_F are each independently a member selected from the group
 consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl,
 alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthioalkyl,
 alkylthioalkylcarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, aryl, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl,
 arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, formyl, heteroaryl,
 45 heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl,
 heterocyclecarbonyl, $(NZ_1 Z_2)alkyl$, and $(NZ_1 Z_2)carbonyl$;

Z_1 and Z_2 are each independently a member selected from the group consisting
 of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl,
 aryl, arylalkyl, arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, formyl,
 50 heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, and
 heterocyclecarbonyl;

R_4 is a member selected from the group consisting of alkenyl, alkenyloxy,
 alkenyloxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl,
 alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl,
 55 alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfinylalkyl, alkylsulfonyl,
 alkylsulfonylalkyl, alkylthio, alkylthioalkyl, alkynyl, alkynyloxy, alkynyloxyalkyl,
 aryl, arylalkoxy, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl, arylalkylthio, arylalkylthioalkyl, aryloxy,
 aryloxyalkyl, arylthio, arylthioalkyl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cyano, cyanoalkyl,
 cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkoxy, cycloalkenylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl,
 60 cycloalkenylalkylthio, cycloalkenylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkenyloxy,

cycloalkenyloxyalkyl, cycloalkenylthio, cycloalkenylthioalkyl, cycloalkyl,
 cycloalkylalkoxy, cycloalkylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkylthio,
 cycloalkylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylthio,
 cycloalkylthioalkyl, formyl, formylalkyl, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, heteroaryl,
 65 heteroarylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxyalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylalkylthio,
 heteroarylalkylthioalkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaryloxyalkyl, heteroarylthio,
 heteroarylthioalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkoxy, heterocyclealkoxyalkyl,
 heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclealkylthio, heterocyclealkylthioalkyl, heterocycleoxy,
 heterocycleoxyalkyl, heterocyclethio, heterocyclethioalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl,
 70 mercapto, nitro, $-NR_G R_H$, $(NR_G R_H)alkyl$, $(NR_G R_H)carbonyl$, and $(NR_G R_H)sulfonyl$;

R_G and R_H are each independently a member selected from the group
 consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl,
 alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthioalkyl,
 alkylthioalkylcarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, aryl, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl,
 75 arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl,
 formyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkoxyalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl,
 heterocycle, heterocyclealkoxyalkyl, heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclecarbonyl,
 $(NZ_3 Z_4)alkyl$, and $(NZ_3 Z_4)carbonyl$;

Z_3 and Z_4 are each independently a member selected from the group consisting
 80 of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl,
 aryl, arylalkyl, arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, formyl,
 heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, and
 heterocyclecarbonyl;

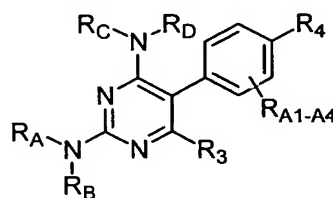
A is a member selected from the group consisting of aryl, cycloalkyl,
 85 cycloalkenyl, heteroaryl, and heterocycle;

R_{A1} , R_{A2} , R_{A3} , and R_{A4} are each independently a member selected from the
 group consisting of hydrogen, alkenyl, alkenyloxy, alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy,
 alkoxyalkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl,
 alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxy,
 90 alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfinylalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonylalkyl, alkylthio,
 alkylthioalkyl, alkynyl, aryl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cyano, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkyl,
 formyl, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, heteroaryl, heterocycle, hydroxy,

hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, $-NR_JR_K$, (NR_JR_K) alkyl, (NR_JR_K) carbonyl, and (NR_JR_K) sulfonyl; and

95 R_J and R_K are each independently a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, and formyl.

2. A compound according to formula (Ia),



(Ia),

or a therapeutically suitable salt or prodrug thereof, wherein

5 R_A and R_B are each independently a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, and formyl;

R_C and R_D are each independently a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkenyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, 10 alkylsulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, formyl, and hydroxyalkyl;

R_3 is a member selected from the group consisting of alkenyl, alkenylalkoxyalkyl, alkenyloxy, alkenyloxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfinylalkyl, 15 alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonylalkyl, alkylthio, alkylthioalkyl, alkynyl, alkynylalkoxyalkyl, alkynyloxy, alkynyloxyalkyl, aryl, arylalkoxy, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl, arylalkylthio, arylalkylthioalkyl, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, arylthio, arylthioalkyl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkoxy, cycloalkenylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkylthio, 20 cycloalkenylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkenyloxy, cycloalkenyloxyalkyl, cycloalkenylthio, cycloalkenylthioalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, cycloalkylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkylthio, cycloalkylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylthio, cycloalkylthioalkyl, formyl, haloalkoxy, halogen,

heteroaryl, heteroarylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxyalkyl, heteroarylalkyl,
 25 heteroarylalkylthio, heteroarylalkylthioalkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaryloxyalkyl,
 heteroarylthio, heteroarylthioalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkoxy,
 heterocyclealkoxyalkyl, heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclealkylthio,
 heterocyclealkylthioalkyl, heterocycleoxy, heterocycleoxyalkyl, heterocyclethio,
 heterocyclethioalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, $-NR_E R_H$, $(NR_E R_H)alkyl$,
 30 $(NR_E R_F)carbonylalkenyl$ $(NR_E R_F)carbonylalkyl$, $(NR_E R_F)sulfonyl$, and
 $(NR_E R_F)sulfonylalkyl$;

R_E and R_F are each independently a member selected from the group
 consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl,
 alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthioalkyl,
 35 alkylthioalkylcarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, aryl, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl,
 arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, formyl, heteroaryl,
 heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl,
 heterocyclecarbonyl, $(NZ_1 Z_2)alkyl$, and $(NZ_1 Z_2)carbonyl$;

Z_1 and Z_2 are each independently a member selected from the group consisting
 40 of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl,
 aryl, arylalkyl, arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, formyl,
 heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, and
 heterocyclecarbonyl;

R_4 is a member selected from the group consisting of alkenyl, alkenyloxy,
 45 alkenyloxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl,
 alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl,
 alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfinylalkyl, alkylsulfonyl,
 alkylsulfonylalkyl, alkylthio, alkylthioalkyl, alkynyl, alkynyloxy, alkynyloxyalkyl,
 aryl, arylalkoxy, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl, arylalkylthio, arylalkylthioalkyl, aryloxy,
 50 aryloxyalkyl, arylthio, arylthioalkyl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cyano, cyanoalkyl,
 cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkoxy, cycloalkenylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl,
 cycloalkenylalkylthio, cycloalkenylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkenyloxy,
 cycloalkenyloxyalkyl, cycloalkenylthio, cycloalkenylthioalkyl, cycloalkyl,
 cycloalkylalkoxy, cycloalkylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkylthio,
 55 cycloalkylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylthio,

cycloalkylthioalkyl, formyl, formylalkyl, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxyalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylalkylthio, heteroarylalkylthioalkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaryloxyalkyl, heteroarylthio, heteroarylthioalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkoxy, heterocyclealkoxyalkyl, heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclealkylthio, heterocyclealkylthioalkyl, heterocycleoxy, heterocycleoxyalkyl, heterocyclethio, heterocyclethioalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, $-NR_G R_H$, $(NR_G R_H)$ alkyl, $(NR_G R_H)$ carbonyl, and $(NR_G R_H)$ sulfonyl;

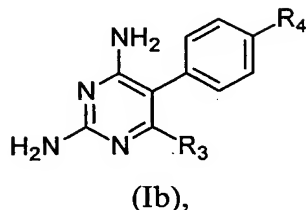
R_G and R_H are each independently a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthioalkyl, alkylthioalkylcarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, aryl, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl, arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, formyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkoxyalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkoxyalkyl, heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclecarbonyl, $(NZ_3 Z_4)$ alkyl, and $(NZ_3 Z_4)$ carbonyl;

Z_3 and Z_4 are each independently a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, formyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, and heterocyclecarbonyl;

R_{A1} , R_{A2} , R_{A3} , and R_{A4} are each independently a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkenyl, alkenyloxy, alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfinylalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonylalkyl, alkylthio, alkylthioalkyl, alkynyl, aryl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cyano, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkyl, formyl, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, heteroaryl, heterocycle, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, $-NR_J R_K$, $(NR_J R_K)$ alkyl, $(NR_J R_K)$ carbonyl, and $(NR_J R_K)$ sulfonyl; and

R_J and R_K are each independently a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, and formyl.

3. A compound according to formula (Ib),



or a therapeutically suitable salt or prodrug thereof, wherein

5 R₃ is a member selected from the group consisting of alkenyl,
 alkenylalkoxyalkyl, alkenyloxy, alkenyloxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy,
 alkoxyalkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkoxysulfonyl,
 alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfinylalkyl,
 alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonylalkyl, alkylthio, alkylthioalkyl, alkynyl,
 10 alkynylalkoxyalkyl, alkynyloxy, alkynyloxyalkyl, aryl, arylalkoxy, arylalkoxyalkyl,
 arylalkyl, arylalkylthio, arylalkylthioalkyl, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, arylthio,
 arylthioalkyl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkoxy,
 cycloalkenylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkylthio,
 cycloalkenylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkenyloxy, cycloalkenyloxyalkyl, cycloalkenylthio,
 15 cycloalkenylthioalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, cycloalkylalkoxyalkyl,
 cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkylthio, cycloalkylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkyloxy,
 cycloalkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylthio, cycloalkylthioalkyl, formyl, haloalkoxy, halogen,
 heteroaryl, heteroarylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxyalkyl, heteroarylalkyl,
 heteroarylalkylthio, heteroarylalkylthioalkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaryloxyalkyl,
 20 heteroarylthio, heteroarylthioalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkoxy,
 heterocyclealkoxyalkyl, heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclealkylthio,
 heterocyclealkylthioalkyl, heterocycleoxy, heterocycleoxyalkyl, heterocyclethio,
 heterocyclethioalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, -NR_ER_H, (NR_ER_H)alkyl,
 (NR_ER_F)carbonylalkenyl (NR_ER_F)carbonylalkyl, (NR_ER_F)sulfonyl, and
 25 (NR_ER_F)sulfonylalkyl;

R_E and R_F are each independently a member selected from the group
 consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl,
 alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthioalkyl,

alkylthioalkylcarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, aryl, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl,
 30 arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, formyl, heteroaryl,
 heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl,
 heterocyclecarbonyl, (NZ₁Z₂)alkyl, and (NZ₁Z₂)carbonyl;

Z₁ and Z₂ are each independently a member selected from the group consisting
 of hydrogen, alkoxy carbonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxy sulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl,
 35 aryl, arylalkyl, arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, formyl,
 heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, and
 heterocyclecarbonyl;

R₄ is a member selected from the group consisting of alkenyl, alkenyloxy,
 alkenyloxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl,
 40 alkoxy carbonyl, alkoxy carbonylalkyl, alkoxy sulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl,
 alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfinylalkyl, alkylsulfonyl,
 alkylsulfonylalkyl, alkylthio, alkylthioalkyl, alkynyl, alkynyloxy, alkynyloxyalkyl,
 aryl, arylalkoxy, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl, arylalkylthio, arylalkylthioalkyl, aryloxy,
 aryloxyalkyl, arylthio, arylthioalkyl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cyano, cyanoalkyl,
 45 cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkoxy, cycloalkenylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl,
 cycloalkenylalkylthio, cycloalkenylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkenyloxy,
 cycloalkenyloxyalkyl, cycloalkenylthio, cycloalkenylthioalkyl, cycloalkyl,
 cycloalkylalkoxy, cycloalkylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkylthio,
 cycloalkylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylthio,
 50 cycloalkylthioalkyl, formyl, formylalkyl, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, heteroaryl,
 heteroarylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxyalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylalkylthio,
 heteroarylalkylthioalkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaryloxyalkyl, heteroarylthio,
 heteroarylthioalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkoxy, heterocyclealkoxyalkyl,
 heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclealkylthio, heterocyclealkylthioalkyl, heterocycleoxy,
 55 heterocycleoxyalkyl, heterocyclethio, heterocyclethioalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl,
 mercapto, nitro, -NR_GR_H, (NR_GR_H)alkyl, (NR_GR_H)carbonyl, and (NR_GR_H)sulfonyl;

R_G and R_H are each independently a member selected from the group
 consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylcarbonyl, alkoxy carbonyl,
 alkoxy sulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthioalkyl,
 60 alkylthioalkylcarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, aryl, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl,

arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, formyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkoxyalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkoxyalkyl, heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclecarbonyl, (NZ₃Z₄)alkyl, and (NZ₃Z₄)carbonyl; and

65 Z₃ and Z₄ are each independently a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, formyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, and heterocyclecarbonyl.

4. A compound according to claim 3, that is a member selected from the group consisting of

 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(4-chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

5 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-(methoxymethyl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-{[(2-fluoro-3-methylbenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-(3-phenylpropyl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

10 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-(phenoxymethyl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-{[(3-methylbenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

15 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-{[(2-methoxybenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-{[(3-methoxybenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-{[(4-methoxybenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

20 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-{[(2-fluorobenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-[[4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

25 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-[[2-chlorobenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-[[4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

30 6-[[2-Bromobenzyl)oxy]methyl}-5-{4-[(4-chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-([3-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)oxy}methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-([4-(methylthio)benzyl)oxy}methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

35 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-[[2,4-dimethylbenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-[[3,5-dimethylbenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

40 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-[[2,3-dichlorobenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-[[2,5-dichlorobenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

5-{4-[(1,3-Benzodioxol-4-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

45 tert-butyl 2-[(4-{2,4-Diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenyl)amino]ethylcarbamate;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(3-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

50 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(tetrahydrofuran-3-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

4-Chloro-N-(4-{2,4-diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenyl)benzamide;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

- 55 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
- 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(1H-imidazol-4-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
- 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
- 60 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-[4-(methylamino)phenyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
- 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-[4-(ethylamino)phenyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
- 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-[4-(propylamino)phenyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
- 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-[4-(isobutylamino)phenyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
- 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-[4-(neopentylamino)phenyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
- 65 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(cyclopropylmethyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
- 2-Butoxy-N-(4-{2,4-diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenyl)acetamide;
- 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-tetrahydrofuran-2-ylpyrimidine-2,4-
- 70 diamine;
- 6-[(2-Butoxyethoxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(4-chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
- 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(1-ethylpropyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
- 75 4-{[(4-{2,4-Diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenyl)amino]methyl}benzonitrile;
- 4-{[(4-{2,4-Diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenyl)(methyl)amino]methyl}benzonitrile;
- 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-[(3-
- 80 methylbutoxy)methyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
- N-(4-{2,4-Diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenyl)propanamide;
- 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(pyridin-4-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
- 85 N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-N-(4-{2,4-diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenyl)acetamide;

4-Chlorobenzyl(4-{2,4-diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenyl)formamide;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(1H-imidazol-2-yl)methyl]amino}phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-(4-{[(6-chloropyridin-3-yl)methyl]amino}phenyl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

N-benzyl-3-(2,6-diamino-5-{4-[(4-chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidin-4-yl)propanamide;

3-(2,6-Diamino-5-{4-[(4-chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidin-4-yl)-N-phenylpropanamide;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(1-pyridin-4-ylethyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

4-{1-[(4-{2,4-Diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenyl)amino]ethyl}benzonitrile;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(4-methoxybenzyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-(4-{[1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]amino}phenyl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

N-butyl-3-(2,6-diamino-5-{4-[(4-chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidin-4-yl)propanamide;

3-(2,6-Diamino-5-{4-[(4-chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidin-4-yl)-N-(3-methylphenyl)propanamide;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(4-chlorobenzyl)oxy]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-(4-{[(4-chlorobenzyl)amino]methyl}phenyl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

5-[4-(Benzylamino)phenyl]-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-(4-{[(4-nitrophenyl)amino]methyl}phenyl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

N-(4-{2,4-Diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}benzyl)-N'-propylurea;

120 4-{[(4-{2,4-Diamino-6-[(cyclobutylmethoxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenyl)amino]methyl}benzonitrile;

4-[(4-{2,4-Diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenoxy)methyl]benzonitrile;

125 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-[(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-ylmethoxy)methyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-[4-({6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-3-yl}methyl)amino]phenyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

4-[(4-{2,4-Diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}benzyl)amino]benzonitrile;

130 3-[(4-{2,4-Diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenoxy)methyl]benzonitrile;

5-{[(4-{2,4-Diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenyl)amino]methyl}pyridine-2-carbonitrile;

135 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethoxy]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-[4-(pyridin-3-ylmethoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

140 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-(4-{[4-(trifluoromethoxy)benzyl]amino}phenyl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-[(cyclohexylmethoxy)methyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

145 4-{[(4-{2,4-Diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}phenyl)amino]methyl}pyridine-2-carbonitrile;

6-[(4-{2,4-Diamino-6-[(benzyloxy)methyl]pyrimidin-5-yl}benzyl)amino]nicotinonitrile;

5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-{[(3-chlorobenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

- 150 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-{[(2-methylbenzyl)oxy]methyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(4-nitrobenzyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-(4-{[(2-chloropyridin-4-yl)methyl]amino}phenyl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
 155 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(pyrimidin-5-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(thien-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
 160 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(thien-3-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-[4-({[1-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]amino}methyl)phenyl]pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-(4-{[2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethyl]amino}phenyl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
 165 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-(4-{[2-(4-chlorophenyl)ethyl]amino}phenyl)pyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
 6-[(Benzyloxy)methyl]-5-{4-[(cycloheptylamino)methyl]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine; and
 170 6-Benzyloxymethyl-5-[4-(pyridin-4-ylmethoxy)-phenyl]-pyrimidine-2,4-diamine.

5. A compound according to claim 3, that is a member selected from the group consisting of

- 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-ethylpyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
 4-({[4-(2,4-Diamino-6-ethylpyrimidin-5-yl)phenyl]amino}methyl)benzonitrile;
 5 5-{4-[(3,4-Dichlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-ethylpyrimidine-2,4-diamine;
 5-{4-[(4-Chlorobenzyl)amino]phenyl}-6-propylpyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

5-(4-{[2-(Benzyloxy)ethyl]amino}phenyl)-6-ethylpyrimidine-2,4-diamine;

and

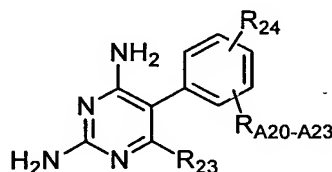
10 6-Ethyl-5-{4-[(4-nitrobenzyl)amino]phenyl}pyrimidine-2,4-diamine.

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) and a pharmaceutically suitable carrier.

7. A method of treating a disorder regulated by ghrelin receptors in a mammal, comprising administering of a compound of formula (I).

8. The method according to claim 7 wherein the disorder is a member selected from the group consisting of anorexia, cancer cachexia, eating disorders, age-related decline in body composition, weight gain, obesity, and diabetes mellitus.

9. A method of treating a disorder regulated by ghrelin receptors in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (II)



(II),

or a therapeutically suitable salt or prodrug thereof, wherein

R₂₃ is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, cyano, and (NR₂₅R₂₆)carbonyl;

R₂₄ is a member selected from the group consisting of alkenyl, alkenyloxy, alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfinylalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonylalkyl, alkylthio, alkylthioalkyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkoxy, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl, arylalkylthio, arylalkylthioalkyl, aryloxy, aryloxyalkyl, arylthio, arylthioalkyl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cyano, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkoxy,

cycloalkenylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkylthio,
 cycloalkenylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkenyloxy, cycloalkenyloxyalkyl, cycloalkenylthio,
 cycloalkenylthioalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, cycloalkylalkoxyalkyl,
 cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkylthio, cycloalkylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkyloxy,
 20 cycloalkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylthio, cycloalkylthioalkyl, formyl, formylalkyl,
 haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxyalkyl,
 heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylalkylthio, heteroarylalkylthioalkyl, heteroaryloxy,
 heteroaryloxyalkyl, heteroarylthio, heteroarylthioalkyl, heterocycle,
 heterocyclealkoxy, heterocyclealkoxyalkyl, heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclealkylthio,
 25 heterocyclealkylthioalkyl, heterocycleoxy, heterocycleoxyalkyl, heterocyclethio,
 heterocyclethioalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, -NR₂₇R₂₈,
 (NR₂₇R₂₈)alkyl, (NR₂₇R₂₈)carbonyl, and (NR₂₇R₂₈)sulfonyl;

R₂₅ and R₂₆ are each independently a member selected from the group
 consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and alkylcarbonyl;

30 R₂₇ and R₂₈ are each independently a member selected from the group
 consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl,
 alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthioalkyl,
 alkylthioalkylcarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, aryl, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl,
 arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl,
 35 formyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkoxyalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl,
 heterocycle, heterocyclealkoxyalkyl, heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclecarbonyl,
 (NZ₂₃Z₂₄)alkyl, and (NZ₂₃Z₂₄)carbonyl;

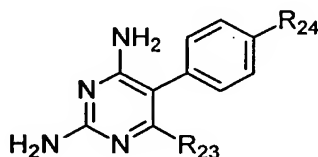
Z₂₃ and Z₂₄ are each independently a member selected from the group
 consisting of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl,
 40 alkylsulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,
 cycloalkylcarbonyl, formyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl,
 heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, and heterocyclecarbonyl;

RA₂₀, RA₂₁, RA₂₂, and RA₂₃ are each independently a member selected from the
 group consisting of hydrogen, alkenyl, alkenyloxy, alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy,
 45 alkoxyalkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl,
 alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxy,
 alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfinylalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonylalkyl, alkylthio,

alkylthioalkyl, alkynyl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cyano, cyanoalkyl, formyl,
haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, -NR₃₀R₃₁,
50 (NR₃₀R₃₁)alkyl, (NR₃₀R₃₁)carbonyl, and (NR₃₀R₃₁)sulfonyl; and

R₃₀ and R₃₁ are each independently a member selected from the group
consisting of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl,
alkylsulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, and formyl.

10. A method of treating a disorder regulated by ghrelin receptors in a mammal
comprising administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a
compound of formula (IIa)



(IIa),

or a therapeutically suitable salt or prodrug thereof, wherein

R₂₃ is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl,
haloalkyl, cyano, and (NR₂₅R₂₆)carbonyl;

R₂₄ is a member selected from the group consisting of alkenyl, alkenyloxy,
10 alkenyloxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkoxy, alkoxyalkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl,
alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl,
alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfinylalkyl, alkylsulfonyl,
alkylsulfonylalkyl, alkylthio, alkylthioalkyl, alkynyl, alkynyloxy, alkynyloxyalkyl,
aryl, arylalkoxy, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl, arylalkylthio, arylalkylthioalkyl, aryloxy,
15 aryloxyalkyl, arylthio, arylthioalkyl, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, cyano, cyanoalkyl,
cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkoxy, cycloalkenylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl,
cycloalkenylalkylthio, cycloalkenylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkenyloxy,
cycloalkenyloxyalkyl, cycloalkenylthio, cycloalkenylthioalkyl, cycloalkyl,
cycloalkylalkoxy, cycloalkylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkylthio,
20 cycloalkylalkylthioalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxyalkyl, cycloalkylthio,
cycloalkylthioalkyl, formyl, formylalkyl, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, heteroaryl,
heteroarylalkoxy, heteroarylalkoxyalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylalkylthio,

heteroarylalkylthioalkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaryloxyalkyl, heteroarylthio,
 heteroarylthioalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkoxy, heterocyclealkoxyalkyl,
 25 heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclealkylthio, heterocyclealkylthioalkyl, heterocycleoxy,
 heterocycleoxyalkyl, heterocyclethio, heterocyclethioalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl,
 mercapto, nitro, $-NR_{27}R_{28}$, $(NR_{27}R_{28})alkyl$, $(NR_{27}R_{28})carbonyl$, and
 $(NR_{27}R_{28})sulfonyl$;

R_{25} and R_{26} are each independently a member selected from the group
 30 consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, and alkylcarbonyl;

R_{27} and R_{28} are each independently a member selected from the group
 consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyalkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl,
 alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthioalkyl,
 alkylthioalkylcarbonyl, alkylthiocarbonyl, aryl, arylalkoxyalkyl, arylalkyl,
 35 arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl,
 formyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkoxyalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl,
 heterocycle, heterocyclealkoxyalkyl, heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclecarbonyl,
 $(NZ_{23}Z_{24})alkyl$, and $(NZ_{23}Z_{24})carbonyl$; and

Z_{23} and Z_{24} are each independently a member selected from the group
 40 consisting of hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxysulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl,
 alkylsulfonyl, aryl, arylalkyl, arylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl,
 cycloalkylcarbonyl, formyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl,
 heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, and heterocyclecarbonyl.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount
 of a compound of formula (II) and a pharmaceutically suitable carrier.

12. The method according to claim 9 wherein the disorder is a member selected
 from the group consisting of anorexia, cancer cachexia, eating disorders, age-related
 decline in body composition, weight gain, obesity, and diabetes mellitus.